

Remarks

Favorable reconsideration in view of the herewith presented amendment and remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 44-58 are pending in this application. Claims 1-43 were previously cancelled.

Claims 51, 55 and 56 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112 second paragraph, as being indefinite.

Applicants have amended these claims in a manner which is believed to overcome the Examiner's technical objections.

Claim 54-58 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,182,216 to DeCaro.

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection

DeCaro relates to a threaded insert for a plastic panel. The Examiner evidently considers that the installed version of the element as shown in Fig. 2 of DeCaro meets the requirements of present independent claim 54 even though the threaded insert does not start off with the same shape, i.e. the generally bullet-nosed shape of the functional element of the present invention.

Claim 54 is trying to claim is the component assembly, comprising the functional element when fitted to the panel. If one looks at the drawings of the present application, for example Fig. 2, which shows such a panel assembly, one will see that the sheet metal part has been deformed into a pot-like recess which merges via a radially inwardly projecting ring fold into a generally planar portion of the panel away from the functional element. The apex of the ring fold is then trapped between the first and second annular bulges (using the wording of claim 54) and indeed the first annular bulge, i.e. the annular bulge formed at the end of the functional element remote from the shaft part, is received within the pot-like recess, with the ring fold being trapped between the first and second annular bulges. This is quite a different picture from that of Fig. 2

of DeCaro. Claim 54 has been amended to take this into account. It is urged that claims 54-58 are not anticipated by DeCaro.

It is believed that all of the present claims are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is requested to reconsider and withdraw all of the rejections made in the Official Action. Early and favorable action by the Examiner is earnestly solicited.

AUTHORIZATION

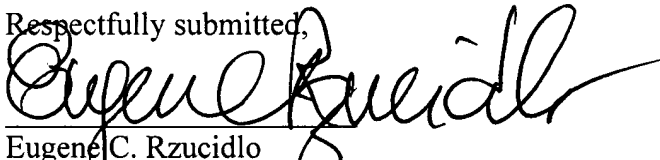
If the Examiner believes that issues may be resolved by telephone interview, the Examiner is respectfully urged to telephone the undersigned at (212) 801-2146. The undersigned may also be contacted by e-mail at ecr@gtlaw.com.

No additional fee is believed to be necessary. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for this amendment, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1561.

In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No. 50-1561.

Dated: August 3, 2005

By: Respectfully submitted,


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